

CAPITAL LINE

USA TODAY'S BRIEFING ON WASHINGTON

CIA wants probe of NBC spy case report



CASEY: 1950 law is at issue

CIA Director William Casey is asking the Justice Department to investigate NBC-TV for possibly violating a 1950 espionage law. Casey claims a Monday Today show report — which said accused spy Ronald Pelton may have given the Soviets information about eavesdropping by USA submarines in Soviet harbors — illegally discloses communications intelligence. NBC said it had referred the matter to lawyers, it had no further comment. Casey recently said five news groups should be prosecuted

for violating the law, but nothing came of it.